

# Community Joins 'Project Pam' Fund Drive

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# Press-Herald

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**TOP OPTOMETRIST** ... Dr. Joseph Bay (right), president of the South Bay Optometric Society, presents a plaque to Dr. Robert Fleming of Torrance following Dr. Fleming's selection as Optometrist of the Year for 1968. Dr. Fleming was selected for the award by his colleagues in the South Bay Optometric Society. (Press-Herald Photo)

## Begin Second Year

# Women Voters Set Planning Seminars

The Torrance League of Women Voters will launch the second year of "A Study of City Planning and Evaluation of Goals for the City of Torrance," Monday.

Planning for open space, the Torrance Municipal Airport and its environment, and regional planning are topics for discussion.

The emphasis in the first year of study was upon the mechanics of planning, relationships of

decision-making bodies in the planning process, and general or master planning.

LEAGUE members will now be evaluating specific open space needs and standards for Torrance; considering means of developing the Torrance Municipal Airport as an asset to the total community and means of creating a compatible environment; and evaluating the effect of participation by the city in

the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and other regional planning agencies.

A resource manual has been prepared under the direction of Mrs. William Geissert, local item chairman. The manual provides certain basic background information or discussion by the members.

"OPEN SPACE" units have been scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Monday at 22940-A Nadine Circle; 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 416 Via Linda Vista; and 9:45 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, at 5615 Marialinda Drive.

"Airport" units are scheduled for the week of Feb. 17, while "regional planning" units are scheduled for the week of March 3.

Interested women are invited to attend the meetings, Mrs. James van Oppen, president, said.

MILLER stated that perhaps the committee was "unpopular" in some quarters for "hitting the establishment."

The Charter Review Committee, made up of local volunteers, has been reviewing the city's charter for nearly two years. The council voted 4-3 to dissolve the group last November, shortly after the committee submitted its tentative draft of the new charter.

Councilman Ross Sciarrotta, the third councilman who voted against dissolving the committee, said he wanted to see the completed document before dissolving the charter group. He said the most important part of the committee's work — the local hearings — had just begun when the committee was disbanded.

COUNCILMAN Jay Beasley, on the other hand, said he favored dissolution because the charter group was created to make a few minor revisions in the charter, not rewrite it from scratch. Beasley praised the city's charter, saying that experts regard it as a fine one.

Mayor Albert Isen said the City Council had not cut short the committee's work since the charter group had had nearly

(See CHARTER, Page B-4)

# City Seeks Expansion Of Crime Lab Facility

## Youthful Suspect Caught

Torrance police have arrested an 18-year-old Lomita youth on charges of felony burglary and drunkenness. Jailed early Thursday morning was John Henry Imel, 735 W. Rolling Hills Road, Lomita.

Police said they were patrolling the area of the Rolling Hills Plaza about 12:40 a.m. Thursday when they heard the sound of glass breaking.

The suspect was seen climbing out of the front window of Foods Company Market. The window had been shattered with a 50-gallon drum trash can.

Police apprehended the unemployed construction worker after a short chase. On the ground near the window, police recovered three packs of cigarettes. Another three packs were found on the suspect, police said.

## Robbery Suspect Arrested

A Harbor City man was arrested on armed robbery charges early Thursday after a custodian at Vel's Ford, 20910 Hawthorne Blvd., told police the man tried to hold him up.

Jailed was 23-year-old Gary Thomas Heffner of 1418 W. 252nd St., Harbor City. Custodian Harry H. Agent, 52, of Los Angeles, said the suspect entered the building about 3:15 a.m. and attempted to hold him up by simulating a gun with his hand in his pocket. Other Vel's employees witnessed the scene.

## Board to Meet

Members of the Torrance Board of Education will hold a regular meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. The session will be held in the district's Service Center, 2335 Plaza del Amo.



PAM FISCHER

## Campaign to Aid Victim of Crash

Pam Fischer, the 18-year-old Torrance girl severely injured in a traffic collision Nov. 4, described herself as "still sore" in an interview with the Press-Herald Thursday.

However, the petite Torrance High graduate sounded chipper and happy in spite of two months of hospitalization.

Miss Fischer suffered burns over 65 per cent of her body when the small, foreign car she was driving collided with a dump truck and burst into flames. She eventually had to lose her right leg.

A COMMUNITY fund-raising campaign to help defray her medical expenses is currently under way in Torrance. Stores displaying the "For Pam" posters are selling tickets for \$1

each. A lucky ticket holder will receive a color television set.

Also, a teenage rock 'n' roll group and a theater company are each giving a benefit performance for Miss Fischer.

The Symbols of Tyme have planned a benefit teen dance tonight, Friday, at the Torrance Recreation Center.

CHAPEL THEATRE will hold a special performance of their current play, "Everybody Loves Opal," Thursday, Feb. 6, at the playhouse, 2222 Lomita Blvd.

Money raised during the campaign will be placed in a special fund at Imperial Bank, Torrance branch. Those desiring to make a contribution may send their gifts directly to the bank in care of the fund.

## Present Lab Is Inadequate, Council Says

More than 50 cases against suspected drug users in Torrance were dismissed from courts last year because Sheriff's Crime Laboratory facilities failed to return analyses of confiscated dope in time for trials.

Determined to do something about the situation, Torrance City Councilmen passed a resolution Tuesday requesting the Board of Supervisors to provide for the expansion of the crime lab facilities so that Torrance police can more adequately fight crime in this city.

Mayor Albert Isen commented that increased laboratory facilities would be a good county project, handled regionally. He mentioned a possible per capita tax, levied by the county and cities, to pay for the project.

PUSHING the lab expansion program most forcefully is Councilman William J. Uerkwitz, through whose influence the Board of Supervisors recently passed two resolutions toward stiffer narcotic enforcement.

The first of the supervisors' resolutions urges the sheriff's department to provide expanded facilities for analyzing dope.

The second, addressed to President Richard M. Nixon, calls for the president to establish a joint presidential commission with the president of Mexico to devise methods of halting the flow of narcotics across the border.

COUNCILMAN Uerkwitz has stated that the dearth of lab facilities has allowed many dope

offenders, both juvenile and adult, to go free, and many more to receive reduced sentences.

The reason for this, he said, is that cities must have their evidence prepared within 30 days for juveniles and within 45 days for adults or else charges are dropped. Crime labs are taking 7 or 8 weeks to return their analyses of dope samples.

UERKWITZ would like to see a small crime laboratory opened here in Torrance. He points out that most of the dope to be processed from this area is marijuana and pills, not the "hard stuff" such as heroin. It is cheaper to analyze these lighter forms of narcotics, he said.

"We're going to lose half of a generation if we don't do something about this situation now," Uerkwitz said. "We can't afford to wait two years or even six months to do something."

## Nollac Case

# Hearing Resumes Monday

Civil Service Commission hearings regarding the suspension of City Engineer Walter M. Nollac will continue Monday from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall.

Nollac was suspended Dec. 16 by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro on charges of alleged misconduct and incompetency.

During the first three hearings, last Friday, Saturday, and Monday, the commission heard the testimony of various witnesses in the case, including a soil engineer. An additional 20 hours of hearing time will be required to complete the case, City Hall sources indicate.

## Burglars Take Five Firearms

Five guns worth \$1,210 were stolen Wednesday afternoon from the home of Mrs. Mary Brooks, 1756 Calamar St.

The four rifles and one revolver were taken sometime between 3:55 and 4:05 p.m., police said. Other items of value were not taken.

# Model Youth Legislature Welcomes Local Teens

Are the youth of today merely turned-on drop-outs who don't care about what happens to their nation or to their fellow man?

"No," say more than 500 high school students. And to demonstrate their concern, they are participating in the 21st annual YMCA statewide Model Youth Legislature which began Thursday in Sacramento. It will end Sunday.

LOCAL DELEGATES to the legislature are: Robbie Alves, 17, 1603 W. 218th St., Narbonne High; Robin Boyes, 17, 3904 W. 228th St., South High; Lorrie Buchanan, 18, 4329 Via Azalea, Palos Verdes High; Wally Hanley, 17, 5314 Reese Rd., South High; and Barbara Laverty, 17, 4108 Via Solano, Palos Verdes High. All five local delegates are members of the Torrance Family YMCA.

For four days the youth legislature will meet in the State

Capitol building to consider laws dealing with narcotics, minority treatment and educational representation, capital punishment, abortion, gun control, euthanasia, the draft, and many other vital issues.

THE TORRANCE group will present a bill lessening the penalties for marijuana use (not sale). The local delegates feel that present laws put too much emphasis on punitive action, that they do not act as a deterrent, and are disproportionate to the crime.

Governor Reagan will address the Model Legislature today, and the decisions made by the delegates will be referred to the governor and the legislature for consideration.

Among the local delegation, Robin Boyes will perform the duties of model senator; Lorrie Buchanan and Wally Hanley will be assemblymen; Robbie Alves

will be legislative aide, assisting the Youth Governor and his officers; and Barbara Laverty will be legislative advocate, a position similar to that of a lobbyist.

## Policemen To Discuss Narcotics

Don Hartell, Youth service officer for the Torrance Police Department, will discuss "Narcotics" Monday at a meeting of the Riviera Homeowners Association.

Hartell will be accompanied by Sgt. Robert Armstrong of the Police Department's narcotics division. Their presentation will include a showing of the film, "Marijuana."

The homeowners' group will meet at 8 p.m. at the Parkway



**CLOSED TO TRAFFIC** ... January rains, which have dumped nearly 16 inches of rain on most of Torrance, have closed Madrona Avenue to traffic between Monterey Street and Sepulveda Boulevard. Water is as much as 4 feet deep in the roadway and the adjacent "Lake Sepulveda." This photograph was taken for the Press-Herald by Gordon Akers, using a 250 millimeter telephoto lens. The view is south from the Monterey Street intersection. And the traffic signal at the Sepulveda-Madrona intersection is, it may be noted, still working.

## Burglars Ransack Two Homes

Burglars struck two Torrance homes under cover of darkness Thursday morning.

Entering through a rear door at the home of George Kelterer, 50, of 4928 Asteria Ave., burglars walked off with a color television and a black and white television, valued together at \$759. The thefts were discovered at 1:30 a.m.

A short time later, at 3 a.m., burglars broke in through a rear window at the home of Roger B. Affra, 23316 Almarosa St. Missing were liquor, jewelry, small appliances, and clothing worth \$300.